

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 442
By McDaniel

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Gerald L. Sanders for his meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee, and his exceptional capabilities as an artist.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Gerald Sanders, who is the sculptor of the Tennessee Monument to be unveiled at Shiloh Battlefield as part of a Statewide observance of Confederate Memorial Day; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from Bell Telephone after thirty-five years, Gerald Sanders was able to pursue his lifelong ambition: a career as a professional artist. With the help and encouragement of renowned Western painter and sculptor, Kenneth Wyatt, and the support of his family, friends, and fellow artists, Mr. Sanders successfully entered the art circuit; and

WHEREAS, born in the small town of Krum, Texas, and raised in the heart of Fort Worth, Texas, Mr. Sanders discovered a love for the heritage of the West and began whittling, carving, and working with wood. His love of nature and enthusiasm for the Old West are evident in each of his many art pieces; and

WHEREAS, this intriguing man served his country bravely in the United States Navy and is now listed in *Contemporary Western Artist* and *The Texas Cowboy* by the Texas Cowboy Artists Association. This successful artist's bronze sculpture "After the Storm" graced the cover of over 14.5 million Southwestern Bell Telephone covers; and

WHEREAS, because of this artist's ultimate goal to combine the energy and spirit of the past with vision and hopes of the future, it was a logical and magnificent idea to ask Mr.

Sanders for his artistic contributions in the production of a new Tennessee State monument for Shiloh Battlefield; and

WHEREAS, the planned site for the monument is just west of Water Oaks Pond, a scene of intense fighting throughout both days of battle at Shiloh. Mr. Sanders' prestigious monument depicts three Civil War soldiers, sculpted to one and a half times life size; and

WHEREAS, this monument is entitled "Passing the Honor" and his concept was inspired by the vision of a soldier in the heat of battle retrieving the Confederate flag from the hands of a mortally wounded color bearer. Behind them, a determined comrade stands vigilant guard over his two companions; and

WHEREAS, this State sponsored project to erect a Tennessee monument at Shiloh Battlefield has been a cooperative venture involving the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the artist, and numerous craftsmen now assisting Mr. Sanders in remaking his original two foot tall preliminary wax model into a cast bronze sculpture of heroic proportion; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee monument will be the largest and most impressive monument added to Shiloh Park in over eighty-eight years and will be a welcomed addition to the commemorative landscape preserved at Shiloh; 143 years after American armies grappled for possession of the field, turning it into some of the nation's most hallowed ground, completion of the new Tennessee monument will illustrate the continuing desire of American citizens to commemorate the historic sacrifice made by the Civil War generation; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Gerald Sanders for his dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Gerald L. Sanders for his meritorious service to the state of Tennessee, commend and applaud his historic artistic contribution at Shiloh Park, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.